(b) and (c) The discussions between the Indian delegation and the OAPEC related to possible areas of cooperation between the member countries of the OAPEC and India, and the OAPEC institutions and the institutions in India in the following areas :—

(i) the utilisation of training capabilities available in India by the OAPEC member countries ;

(ii) utilisation of the research network established by the ONGC, EIL & IOC; and

(iii) bilateral and multilateral cooperation between the National Oil companies with a view to promoting self-reliance.

It was greed during the discussions that the cooperation between the OAPEC, its member countries and India would be strengthened further. This would result in a greater degree of self-reliance and cooperation amongst developing countries.

Pending cases in Supreme Court

71. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of pending cases in Supreme Court of India as on the 31st October, 1985;

(b) how many cases are more than three years, old ;

(c) what steps are being taken for speedy disposal of pending cases in Supreme Court ;

(d) how many vacancies of Judges are there at present ;

(e) what steps are being taken by Government to fill up those vacancies ; and

(f) whether there is any proposal to introduce a computer in order to speed up justice and if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Steps taken to reduce pendency are given in Statement.

(d) and (e) There are three vacancies at present. Filling up of these vacancies is engaging the attention of Government in consultation with Chief Justice of India.

(f) As per information furnished by the Registry of the Supreme Court, computer technology would be introduced to help in reducing the back-log of cases.

Statement

Steps taken from time to time to reduce pendency

The following steps have been taken in recent years to reduce pendency in Supreme Court.

1. The Code of Civil Procedure was amended in 1976 to abolish Letters Patent Appeals from judgement of Single Judge of the High Court in second appeal (*vide* section 100A).

2. The Code of Criminal Procedure based on the recommendations of the Law Commission was enacted in 1973.

3. The Judge strength of the Supreme Court has been raised from 13 to 17 excluding the Chief Justice with effect from 31-12-77 by amending the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956.

4. The Surreme Court has also taken the following measures :

(1) Priority is given to certain matters ;

(2) Miscellaneous matters are fixed daily ;

(3) Writ Petitions with identical questions are grouped together and batches running from 50 to 100 matters are listed together for hearing ;

(4) Other matters involving identical questions are also identified from time to time and put together and efforts are made to see that such groups are disposed of early ;

(5) The Supreme Court Rules were revised in 1966 providing for printing of records under its own supervision. As that was also taking quite some time the court of late has started wherever possible dispensing with the preparation of records and hearing the appeals on special leave paper-book itself after the parties have filed their counter-affidavits and affidavits in reply.

(6) To save the Court's time Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India is taking mentioning after Court's hours which were previously taking at least about one hour.

(7) In Criminal Appeals counsels for the appellants is required to file cyclostyle record to save time in getting it printed so that the matters could be heard early.

(8) Supreme Court Rules have been amended empowering Hon'ble Judge in Chamber and the Registrar to dispose of certain types of matters which were previously being listed in the court. This has been to save the Court's time.

(9) Specialised Benches are constituted to list particular type of matters relating to that branch of law in which the Hon'ble Judges constituting the specialised Bench are expert. This enables the specialised bench to dispose of such matters expeditiously.

Pending cases and vacant posts of judges in High Courts

72. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA :
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) how many cases are pending in each High Court as on the 31st October, 1985 and among them, how many are more than three years, old :

(b) how many vacancies are there as on date in each High Court and the date of each vacancy ;

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to fill up these vacancies and also for speedy disposal of cases ;

(d) the names of High Courts which are without full fledged Chief Justices as on date along with date of vacancy ;

(e) how many Judges have been transferred in each High Court during the last three years along with date of such transfer; and

(f) whether there is any proposal to introduce computerisation in High Courts to speed up justice : if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) Information is furnished by the Registries of the High Courts is given in Statement-I.